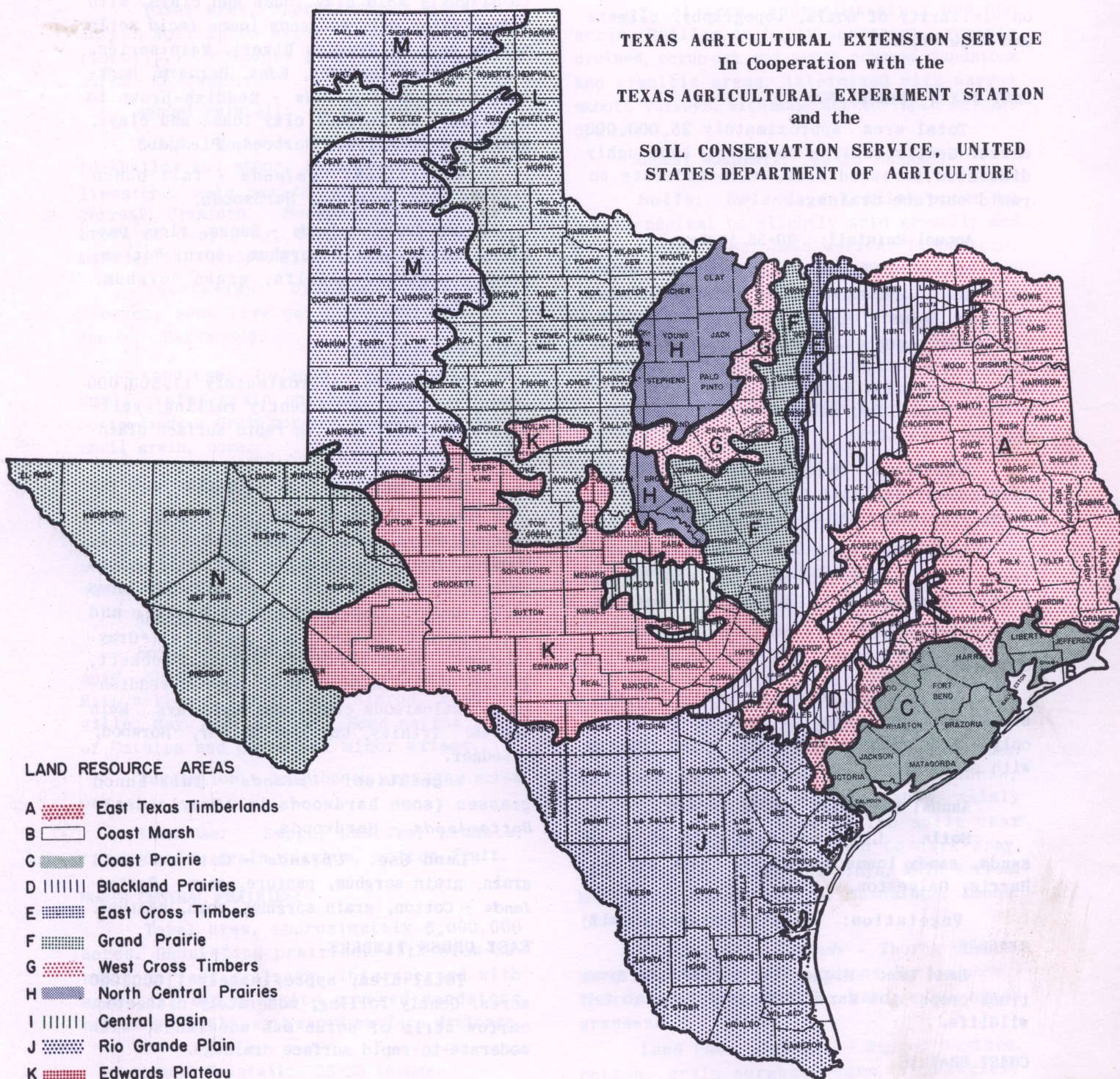


Land Resource Areas of Texas

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
In Cooperation with the
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
and the
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



LAND RESOURCE AREAS

- A East Texas Timberlands
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- C Coast Prairie
- D Blackland Prairies
- E East Cross Timbers
- F Grand Prairie
- G West Cross Timbers
- H North Central Prairies
- I Central Basin
- J Rio Grande Plain
- K Edwards Plateau
- L Rolling Plains
- M High Plains
- N Trans-Pecos

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

Land Resource Areas of Texas *

TEXAS HAS A TOTAL AREA of approximately 169,000,000 acres (254 counties). The state is divided into 14 land resource areas based on similarity of soils, topography, climate and vegetation.

EAST TEXAS TIMBERLANDS

Total area approximately 25,000,000 acres. Gently rolling to hilly, thoroughly dissected forested area, with moderate to rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 30-55 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Light-colored, acid, sandy loams and sands. Main series: Bowie, Lakeland, Boswell, Susquehanna, Caddo, Ruston, Kirvin, Nacogdoches, Magnolia, Lufkin, Tabor. *Bottomlands* - Light-brown to dark-gray, acid, sandy loams, clay loams and some clays. Main series: Bibb, Iuka, Ochlockonee, Kaufman (calcareous: Trinity).

Vegetation: *Uplands* - Loblolly, short-leaf (some longleaf) pine and oak. *Bottomlands* - Hardwoods with some pine.

Land Use: *Uplands* - Timber, pasture, truck-crops, corn, cotton, hay and forage crops. *Bottomlands* - Pasture, meadow, timber, corn, cotton.

COAST MARSH

Total area, approximately 500,000 acres. Low wet marsh or semi-marsh area, only slightly above sea level, often covered with salt water.

Annual Rainfall: 50-55 inches.

Soils: Light and dark-colored, acid sands, sandy loams and clays. Main series: Harris, Galveston.

Vegetation: Sedges, rushes, salt grasses.

Land Use: Higher areas - Range, some truck crops. Low Marsh - Natural habitat for wildlife.

COAST PRAIRIE

Total area - Approximately 7,500,000 acres. Nearly level, weakly dissected plain, with slow surface drainage.

*Prepared jointly by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Soil Conservation Service, USDA.

Annual Rainfall: 35-55 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark-colored, neutral to slightly acid clay loams and clays, with some lighter colored sandy loams (acid soils mostly east of Trinity River). Main series: Lake Charles, Beaumont, Edna, Bernard, Hockley, Katy. *Bottomlands* - Reddish-brown to dark-gray, calcareous clay loams and clays. Main series: Miller, Norwood, Pledger.

Vegetation: *Uplands* - Tall bunch grasses. *Bottomlands* - Hardwoods.

Land Use: *Uplands* - Range, rice, pasture, cotton, grain sorghum, corn. *Bottomlands* - Cotton, alfalfa, grain sorghum, pasture.

BLACKLAND PRAIRIES

Total area, approximately 11,500,000 acres. Undulating to gently rolling, well-dissected prairies, with rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 30-45 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark-colored, calcareous clays. Main series: Houston Black, Houston, Hunt, Austin, Bell, Lewisville. Some grayish-brown, acid sandy loams and clay loams along eastern edge of the major prairie and interspersed in the minor prairies ("Graylands"). Main series: Wilson, Crockett, Irving. *Bottomlands* - Dark-gray to reddish-brown, calcareous clay loams and clays. Main series: Trinity, Catalpa, Miller, Norwood, Pledger.

Vegetation: *Uplands* - Tall bunch grasses (some hardwoods in "Graylands"). *Bottomlands* - Hardwoods.

Land Use: *Uplands* - Cotton, small grain, grain sorghum, pasture, corn. *Bottomlands* - Cotton, grain sorghum, corn, pasture.

EAST CROSS TIMBERS

Total area, approximately 1,000,000 acres. Gently rolling, moderately dissected, narrow strip of scrub oak woodlands, with moderate-to-rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: Approximately 35 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Light-colored, acid loamy sands and sandy loams. Main series: Boswell, Kirvin, Edge, Tabor, Bowie. *Bottom-*

lands - Some narrow areas of Ochlockonee and Gowen--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Oak and tall bunch grasses.

Land Use: Pasture, grain sorghum, small grain, truck crops.

GRAND PRAIRIE

Total area, approximately 6,500,000 acres. Rolling to hilly, deeply dissected (locally very stony) prairies, with rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 30-35 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark-colored, deep-to-shallow and stony, calcareous clays over limestone. Main series: San Saba, Denton, Tarrant, Crawford. *Bottomlands* - Reddish-brown to dark-gray, clay loams and clays. Main series: Catalpa, Miller, Norwood, Trinity.

Vegetation: *Uplands* - Tall bunch grasses, some live oak and cedar. *Bottomlands* - Hardwoods.

Land Use: *Uplands* - Range, pasture, small grain, grain sorghum, corn, cotton. *Bottomlands* - Grain sorghum, alfalfa, pasture, small grain, corn.

WEST CROSS TIMBERS

Total area, approximately 3,000,000 acres. Gently rolling to rolling, well-dissected, scrub oak woodland area, with rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 25-32 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Light-colored, slightly acid, sandy loams, loamy sands and sands. Main series: Windthorst, Nimrod, Stephenville, May. *Bottomlands* - Some narrow areas of Catalpa and Gowen--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Tall bunch grasses, scrub oak.

Land Use: Range, pasture, peanuts, truck crops, grain sorghum, cotton, fruit.

NORTH CENTRAL PRAIRIES:

Total area, approximately 6,000,000 acres. Undulating prairies, with slow-to-rapid surface drainage, interspersed with scrub oak and mesquite covered sandstone ridges and hills, with rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 25-30 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Reddish-brown to grayish-brown, neutral to slightly acid, sandy loams and clay loams, with some areas of stony soils. Main series: Renfrow, Zaneis, Kirkland, Darnell. *Bottomlands* - Some narrow

areas of Catalpa and Gowen--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Tall and short grasses, mesquite and scrub oak.

Land Use: Range, pasture, small grain sorghum, cotton, truck crops.

CENTRAL BASIN

Total area, approximately 2,000,000 acres. Rolling to hilly and stony, rapidly drained, scrub oak and brush covered sandstone and granitic areas, intermixed with narrow smooth valleys, with moderate-to-rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 25-30 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Reddish-brown to brown, neutral to slightly acid gravelly and stony sandy loams. Main series: Tishomingo, Pedernales, Pontotoc, Harley, Darnell. *Bottomlands* - Some narrow areas of Catalpa--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Mesquite, live oak, post oak, tall and short grasses.

Land Use: Range, grain sorghum, small grain.

RIO GRANDE PLAIN

Total area, approximately 22,000,000 acres. Undulating to rolling, moderately dissected, thorny brush covered plain, with slow-to-rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 20-35 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark calcareous to neutral clays and clay loams. Main series: Victoria, Monteola, Clareville, Orelia. Reddish-brown, neutral to slightly acid, sandy loams. Main series: Duval, Webb. Grayish-brown, neutral sandy loams and clay loams. Main series: Willacy, Hidalgo, Brennan, Miguel, Goliad, Medio (some sands, mainly Nueces series). (Some saline soils near coast.) *Bottomlands* - Brown to dark-gray, calcareous clay loams and clays, Main series: Harlingen, Cameron, Frio, Guadalupe, Leona. (Some saline soils.)

Vegetation: *Uplands* - Thorny shrubs, mesquite, tall and short grasses. *Bottomlands* - Thorny shrubs, mesquite, hardwoods, bunch grasses.

Land Use: *Uplands* - Range, pasture, cotton, grain sorghum, corn, vegetables, citrus. *Bottomlands* - Cotton, vegetables, corn, grain sorghum, pasture.

EDWARDS PLATEAU

Total area, approximately 22,000,000

acres. Deeply dissected, rapidly drained, limestone plain of flat-to-rolling divides, with hilly and broken areas adjacent to narrow stream valleys, with rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 15-35 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark, Calcareous stony clays and some clay loams. Main series: Tarrant, Valera, Tobosa, Ozona, Ector. *Bottomlands* - Some narrow areas of Catalpa and Frio--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Live oak, mesquite, shin oak, cedar, short grasses.

Land Use: Mostly range; some small grain, grain sorghum, forage and hay crops.

ROLLING PLAINS

Total area, approximately 24,000,000 acres. Gently sloping plains, with moderate-to-rapid surface drainage, forming nearly level divides, separated by strongly sloping, deeply entrenched narrow stream valleys, with rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 20-25 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark-brown to reddish-brown, neutral to slightly calcareous sandy loams, clay loams and clays. Main series: Abilene, Miles, Foard, Tillman, Roscoe, Vernon, Valera. *Bottomlands* - Some areas of Spur and Miller--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Short and bunch grasses, mesquite.

Land Use: Range, grain sorghum, cotton, small grain.

HIGH PLAINS

Total area, approximately 20,000,000 acres. Nearly level, slightly dissected

high tableland, with slow-to-moderate surface drainage (many small, shallow playas present).

Annual Rainfall: 15-20 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Dark-brown to reddish-brown, neutral sands, sandy loams and clay loams (some very shallow calcareous clay loams). Main series: Amarillo, Pullman, Portales, Zita, Tivoli, Brownfield, Mansker, Potter. *Bottomlands* - Some narrow areas of Spur--of minor extent.

Vegetation: Short grasses.

Land Use: Cotton, wheat, grain sorghum, pasture, range, vegetables.

TRANS-PECOS

Total area, approximately 18,000,000 acres. Mountain ranges and rough stony areas, with intermixed flat basins and plains, with slow-to-rapid surface drainage.

Annual Rainfall: 5-18 inches.

Soils: *Uplands* - Light reddish-brown to brown sands, clay loams and clays (mostly calcareous, some saline) and rough stony lands. Main series: Reeves, Reagan, Verhalen, Brewster, Ector, Tivoli. *Bottomlands* - Dark grayish-brown to reddish-brown, calcareous clay loams and clays (some saline). Main series: Pecos, Arno, Toyah, Gila, Imperial, Pima, Vinton.

Vegetation: *Uplands* - Short grasses, desert shrub. *Bottomlands* - Bunch grasses, mesquite, desert shrub.

Land Use: *Uplands* - Range, cotton, alfalfa, grain sorghum, cantaloupes. *Bottomland* - Cotton, alfalfa, grain sorghum, vegetables.

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